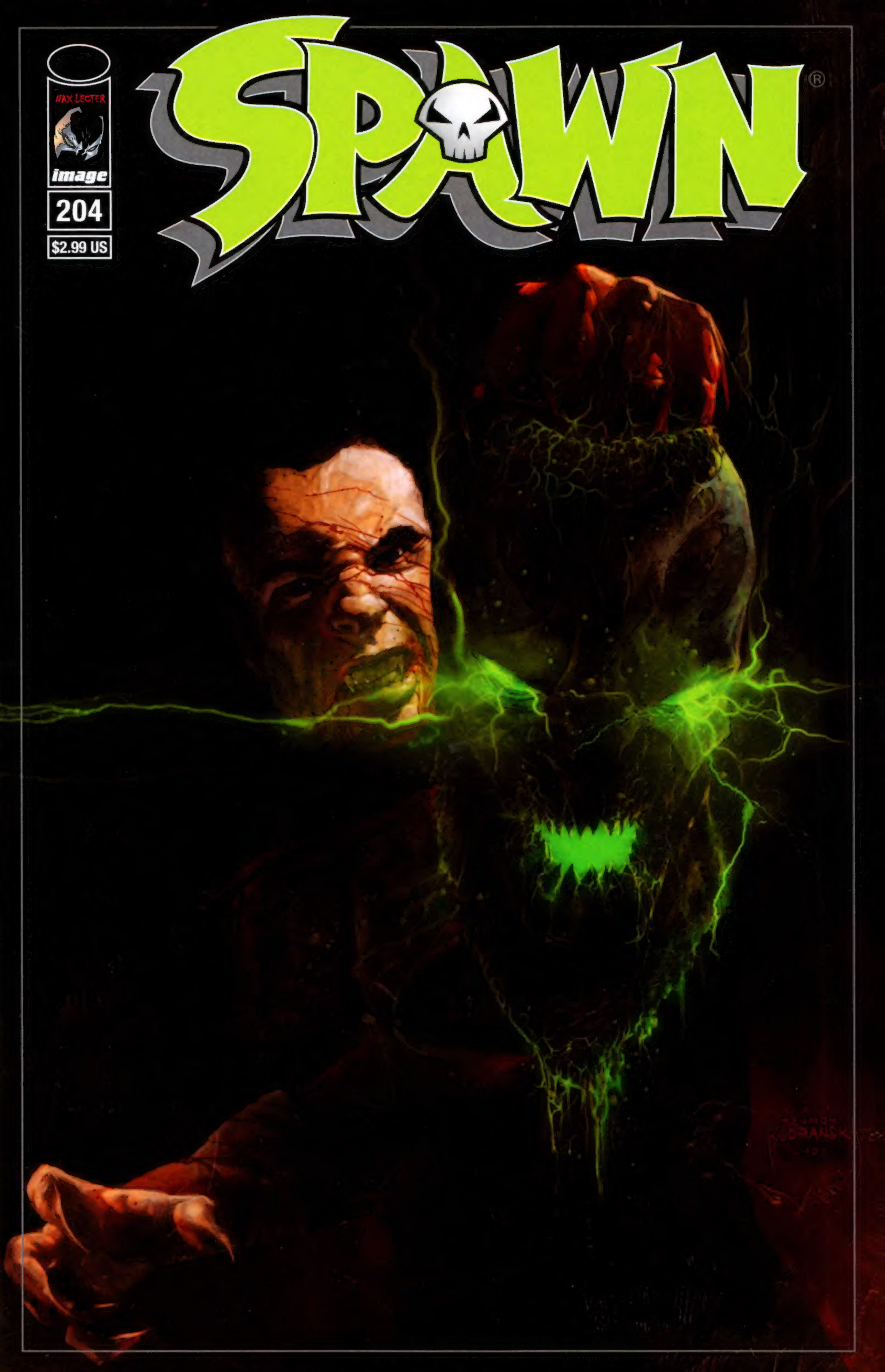
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Todd McFarlane and Image Comics Present

PREVIOUSLY IN *SPAWN*

After learning he could potentially be married, Jim rushes to the aid of Sara, who is being bombarded by paparazzi. In his absence, he assigns Marc to locate "his wife".

Meanwhile, in Minsk, Belarus Malebolgia begins collecting what is rightfully his. And in another part of town, Clown enlists the help of the Old Guard to "test" Jim and the costume's abilities.

In an attempt to evade the paparazzi, Jim and Sara get caught in a swarm of photographers. In all the chaos, an unfortunate bus accident occurs, and Jim is plagued with the decision to save the life of the dying man who harassed Sara.

image

TODD McFARLANE PRODUCTIONS

SPAWN.COM

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¡QUE ES LO QUE ME ESTAS DICIENDO... NO PUEDES NI INSINUAR ESO! ¡ÉL NECESITA TU AYUDA!

¿NO LO ESTAS VIENDO?

¡ERES EL ÚNICO QUE PUEDE HACER ALGO! ¡Y NO TE ATREVAS A QUEDARTE AHÍ PARADO Y DECIRME QUE ESTÁS DISPUESTO A DEJARLO MORIR!

¡MÍRAME A LOS OJOS Y DÍMELO!

¡NO CREO QUE SEAS CAPAZ!

TÚ ERES UN BUEN HOMBRE.

¿PERO-- QUÉ TE PASA?

NOSOTROS NO HICIMOS ESTO. FUERON ELLOS. ¡TODOS ELLOS! AGOLPÁNDOSE Y EMPUJÁNDOSE UNOS A OTROS-- LA MANERA EN QUE TE TRATARON-- ¡COMO UNA MANADA DE LOBOS!*

A MÍ NO ME IMPORTA ESO.

ME IMPORTA ÉL.

*Número anterior--Todd

ESCÚCHALA, HERMANO. TIENES QUE TRATAR.

PORQUE SI NO INTENTAS HACER ALGO-- TE LO JURO-- ÉL MORIRÁ.

ASÍ QUE OLVIDEMOS LO QUE ME HICIERON. YA PASÓ.

SARA...

VOY A HACER ESTO POR TI.

QUIERO QUE ENTIENDAS QUE-- NO LO HAGO POR ÉL O PORQUE CUALQUIERA ELLOS ME LO PIDA. ESTO ES POR TI.

AHORA QUÉDATE AQUÍ.

gracias.

¿QUÉ ESTÁ HACIENDO?

EL IMBÉCIL ESTÁ A PUNTO DE QUEDAR AL DESCUBIERTO.

¿Y POR QUÉ HARÍA ESO?

PORQUE ES DÉBIL.

VAMOS...

¡VAMOS!

¡MALDICIÓN! ¡FUNCIONA! POR QUÉ NO...

FUNCIONA

clik clik clik snap clik snap clik clik

clik snap clik clik clik clik snap clik

¿FUE EL TRAJE O FUE DOWNING QUIÉN HIZO ESO?
AMBOS
DE ESO ES DE LO QUE TRATABA DE ADVERTIR-LOS.*
ESTO COMPLICA NUESTRA MISIÓN.
¿TU CREES?

*Número anterior-- Todd

HOLA MITCH. HABLA MARC ROSEN.

SÍ, SE QUE ES TARDE. ES QUE... ANDO BUSCANDO ALGO Y YA HE REVISADO TODA LA BASE DE DATOS DEL CONDADO.

CORRECTO, PERO AMBOS SABEMOS QUE LA WEB NO ES COMPLETAMENTE PRECISA.

NO... NO QUISE DECIR ESO, SOLO DIGO QUE NO ESTÁ ACTUALIZADA A LA FECHA Y SÉ QUE LA CORTE TIENE SU PROPIO SISTEMA INTERNO DE ARCHIVOS. PENSABA QUE TÚ QUIZÁS PODRÍAS CHEQUEAR ALGO POR MÍ.

NO-- NO LO NECESITO YA. PERO CONTABA CON QUE MAÑANA PUDIERAS INVESTIGARLO EN TU OFICINA.

NO TE PIDO QUE HACKES NORAD*, SOLO QUE BUSQUES UNA LIBRETA DE MATRIMONIO.

¿PUEDES HACER ESO POR MÍ?

¿CÓMO?

¿HAS VISTO EL SHOW DE KARLENE PHILLIPS? SI, CON ÉL ES CON QUIEN ESTOY TRABAJANDO.

UN POCO, SI. SOY COMO SU MANAGER AHORA. PERO SI HAS VISTO EL SHOW SABRÁS QUE ÉL TIENE SERIOS PROBLEMAS CON SU PASADO...

¿QUÉ?

HEY...

¿HAS TERMINADO?

NO. NO DIJE QUE ESTUVIERA CASADO. DIGO QUE QUIZÁ LO HAYA ESTADO. INTENTO ENCONTRAR ALGÚN REGISTRO--UM-- ¿PODRÍAS ENCARGARTE?

ESO QUISIERA. DESDE QUE JIM ME SOLTÓ ESTA BOMBA, HE ESTADO HACIENDO TODA CLASE DE AVERIGUACIONES. PODRÍA PARAR UN RATO.

¿ÉL ESTÁ CASADO?

*N de T: NORAD es el acrónimo de North American Aerospace Defense Command (Mando Norteamericano de Defensa Aeroespacial)

NO LO SÉ. TAL VEZ. LA FOTO SUGIERE QUE SI. PERO MÁS ALLÁ DE ESO NO TENGO IDEA. ¿PORQUE TE INTERESA?

¿PORQUE TE INTERESA A TI?

NO HAS PARADO DE HABLAR DE JIM DESDE QUE SE CONOCIERON.

¿QUÉ--?

ALGÚN DÍA, QUISIERA TENER A MI NOVIO DEVUELTA, TAL VEZ, CUANDO DEJES DE CORRER HACIENDO MANDADOS PARA TU NUEVO BFF* ENCUENTRES EN TU AJETREADA AGENDA ALGO DE TIEMPO PARA TU NOVIA.

SLAM

BZZZT

eh--

DISCULPA EL EXABRUPTO, MITCH ¿CREES PODER AYUDARME CON ESTO?

TE LO AGRADEZCO. ¿EH?

NO, PROBABLEMENTE NO. SU VIDA ES UNA PIZARRA EN BLANCO. ESTUVE SEMANAS BUSCANDO ALGUNA INFORMACIÓN SOBRE SU PASADO. NO ENCONTRÉ NADA. ES COMO SI NO HUBIERA EXISTIDO ANTES DEL COMA.

SÍ. REALMENTE LO HIZO. LO VI CON MIS PROPIOS OJOS-- EL TIENE ALGO ESPECIAL. SE QUE LA MAYORÍA DE ESOS SHOWS SON PURA MIERDA, PERO ESTO FUE REAL. LO QUE HAS VISTO EN EL SHOW DE KARLENE PHILLIPS FUE TOTALMENTE REAL.

COOL, GRACIAS DE NUEVO. LÁMAME CUANDO ENCUENTRES ALGO. ADIÓS.

*N de T: "BFF" Son las siglas de "Best Friends Forever" (mejores amigos para siempre)

SARA, TOMA MI MANO.

¿QUÉ VAS A HACER?

¡SACARNOS DE AQUÍ, YA!

¡CORRE!

¿NO VAS A HABLAR CON LA POLICÍA?

¡NO VOY A LIDIAR CON ELLOS AHORA!

¡...ESPERA! ¡ESTÁS CORRIENDO MUY RÁPIDO!

¿ME ESTÁS ESCUCHANDO?

¡RÁPIDO, POR AQUÍ! ANTES DE QUE DEN LA VUELTA A LA ESQUINA!

JIM... ALTO...

¡SILENCIO!

¡NOS OYERAN!

VAMOS.

¡NO! ¡NO HASTA QUE TENGA ALGUNAS RESPUESTAS!

¿QUE PASA CONTIGO? ¿POR QUÉ ACTÚAS ASÍ? ALGO ESTÁ MAL-- DIME-- ¡¿QUÉ PASA Y PORQUE DUDASTE EN CURAR AL FOTÓGRAFO?! ESE HOMBRE ESTABA MURIENDO-- ¡NO TENIAS QUE PENSAR NADA! ¡DEBERÍAS HABERLO HECHO TU MISMO SIN QUE YO TE LO PIDIERA! ¡ÉL ESTABA MURIENDO!

¿QUÉ PRETENDÍAS?

¡ESTABA MURIENDO!

¡TUS ACCIONES NO TIENEN SENTIDO! ¡AYUDAS A UN CHICO EN TV, PERO NO QUIERES AYUDAR A UN HOMBRE DESANGRANDOSE A TUS PIES

NO LO ENTENDERÍAS.

¡ENTONCES EXPLÍCAME!

¡NO PUEDO!

¡PORQUE... TAMPOCO ME ENTIENDO A MI MISMO! ¡MI SANACIÓN! ¡MIS PODERES! ¡EL COMA! ¡TODO ESTO-- ES UNA CALAMIDAD! NO PUEDO ENTENDER COMO TENGO ESTOS PODERES O COMO ES QUE FUNCIONAN Y...

...¡Y NI SIQUIERA SE QUIEN SOY! ¡PIENSO EN ESO CADA MINUTO. CADA SEGUNDO!

¡¡¿QUIÉN DEMONIOS SOY?!!

¡ESTO ME ESTÁ VOLVIENDO LOCO!

ESTÁ BIEN.

ESTÁS PASANDO POR MUCHAS COSAS. NO PUEDO NI EMPEZAR A IMAGINARME POR LO QUE ESTAS PASANDO-- PERO TIENES UN DON, DIOS TE DIO UN DON, ALGO TAN ESPECIAL... TAN MILAGROSO... TÚ PUEDES CAMBIAR EL MUNDO.

¡AMIGOS! ¡POR AQUÍ! CREO QUE LOS VI!

oh, no.

SARA... ¿CONFÍAS EN MÍ?

POR SUPUESTO. CON TODO MI CORAZÓN.

ES TODO LO QUE NECESITABA OÍR.

VEN AQUÍ...

VOY A ESTRUJARTE UN POCO.

LO JURO.

LOS VI, AMBOS ESTABAN AQUÍ.

JIM... NO.

ME EMPIEZAS ASUSTAR.

ESTO NO PUEDE SER.

¿POR QUÉ?

PORQUE ESTE-- ES MI APARTAMENTO.

LO SÉ.

¿PERO CÓMO...?

SOLO PENSÉ EN VENIR A ESTE LUGAR. TENGO TANTAS PREGUNTAS SIN RESPUESTAS COMO TU.

AHORA SABES CON LO QUE ESTOY TRATANDO DE LIDIAR.

Y ESPERO QUE NO ME ODIES POR ELLO.

ADIÓS, SARA.

ES GRACIOSO VER CÓMO SIGUES REGRESANDO SIEMPRE AQUÍ

TRANQUILO, SOY YO.

¿DONDE DIABLOS ESTABAS?

POR AQUÍ.

¡DIJISTE QUE TENÍAMOS QUE SER PRECAVIDOS-- MANTENERNOS OCULTOS, Y LUEGO SIMPLEMENTE DESAPARECES!

TENÍA QUE PENSAR. PERO VEO QUE NO SEGUISTE MIS CONSEJOS.

¿CUÁLES?

SOBRE MANTENERNOS OCULTOS. APARECES EN TALK SHOWS. DAS DEMOSTRACIONES PÚBLICAS DE PODER. ESAS NO SON ACCIONES DE ALGUIEN QUE *EVITA* LLAMAR LA ATENCIÓN

LO DEL SHOW FUE SOLO UNA FORMA DE HACER DINERO. Y LO QUE PASO EN LA CALLE-- NO TENÍA OTRA OPCIÓN.

¡ESAS SON EXCUSAS! SIEMPRE TIENES OPCIONES!

NO DEJO DE DECIRTE-- ERES UN BLANCO FACIL. TU TRAJE. TUS PODERES. ELLOS LOS QUIEREN-- QUIEREN CONTROLARLOS. Y AHORA QUE LO PIENSO-- APARTARTE DEL MUNDO SOLO LES FACILITARA EL TRABAJO-- CIELO, INFIERNO, AMBOS QUIEREN QUE ESTÉS SOLO, ASÍ PUEDEN ATACARTE SIN QUE NADIE ALREDEDOR VEA SUS ACCIONES.

SABES QUE... ¡QUE SE PUDRAN! ¡SIGUE ASÍ! GOZA AL CALOR DE LOS REFLECTORES. PORQUE MIENTRAS MAS OJOS SE POSEN SOBRE TI, MAS DIFÍCIL LES SERÁ ACERCARSE A TI SIN REVELAR SUS VERDADERAS INTENCIONES.

¡Y CRÉEME!... ¡ESO ES LO ÚLTIMO QUE QUIEREN HACER!

SIMPLEMENTE NO DEJES QUE SE TE ACERQUEN. NO DEJES QUE SEPAN QUE JIM DOWNING Y SPAWN SON LA MISMA PERSONA. PORQUE SI LO HACES-- SE TE VENDRÁN ENCIMA. Y EN ESTA CULTURA ODIAN A LOS PECADORES, JIMMY-BOY, Y AMAN MANCILLAR A SUS SANTOS-- Y LA REALIDAD ES QUE... ¡TU ERES AMBOS!

¿Y PORQUE NO VAN A POR TI?

LO HAN HECHO. MUCHAS VECES, DURANTE SIGLOS.

¡SI!-- NO TE SORPRENDAS-- SI LO HACES BIEN, PUEDES VOLVERTE ¡INMORTAL! PERO LA RAZÓN DE PORQUE SE FIJAN EN TI Y NO EN MI, ES OBVIA-- ¡SOLO MÍRAME! ¡SOY ENANO, GORDO, PELADO! EVENTUALMENTE FUERON DECIDIENDO QUE YO YA NO ERA UNA AMENAZA PARA ELLOS.

DIGO-- ¡NO ES QUE PUEDA CONVERTIRME EN UN MONSTRUO GIGANTE Y VAYA A ARRANCARLE EL CORAZÓN A LA GENTE!

¿TE HAS PREGUNTADO ALGUNA VEZ..

...CUÁNTOS IMPERIOS HEMOS VISTO CAER DURANTE LOS ÚLTIMOS SIGLOS? LOS ASIRIOS. LOS MONGOLES. ALEJANDRO. ROMA. Y TANTOS OTROS.

TODOS EVENTUALMENTE FLAQUEARON O SUS BASES PODER TERMINARON DESMORONANDOSE. NINGUNO FUE CAPAZ DE AGARRARSE DE ESO QUE HABÍAN CONQUISTADO.

SOLO SE DESVANECIERON EN LA HISTORIA.

Y AHORA-- ESTAMOS AL BORDE DEL PRECIPICIO. PERO TENEMOS FINALMENTE LA CHANCE DE LOGRAR LO QUE NINGUNA DE ESAS CIVILIZACIONES PUDO-- ¡CONTROLAR NUESTRO DESTINO!

ESSEX HOUSE

ES POR ESO QUE LOS LLAME AQUÍ...

¿Y POR QUÉ ME ARRIESGO COLOCÁNDOME EN EL CAMPO DE JUEGO? A PESAR DEL CUIDADOSO TRABAJO DE NUESTRA GENTE ALREDEDOR DEL GLOBO, SIEMPRE CORRIMOS CON DESVENTAJA CUANDO NOS ENFRENTAMOS A LA PURA FUERZA DE NUESTROS ENEMIGOS.

NUNCA PUDIMOS COMPETIR CONTRA LOS VANIDOSOS EJÉRCITOS DEL CIELO O EL INFIERNO.

PERO ESTE NUEVO HELLSPAWN-- ESTE JIM DOWNING-- REPRESENTA NUESTRA GRAN OPORTUNIDAD. Y CREO QUE SU POTENCIAL ES CASI ILIMITADO.

MI PLAN ES HACERLO LEAL A NUESTRA CAUSA. NO A LA DE ELLOS.

COMO TE DIJE ANTES, BLUDD...

EL TIPO SE ESTÁ VOLVIENDO UNA CELEBRIDAD. Y LA HAZAÑA DE HOY NO VA A SERVIRLE DE MUCHO A NUESTROS INTERESES.

¡LA ATENCIÓN DE LA PRENSA VA A CONVERTIR ESTO EN UN CIRCO!

Culpa mía

SI LO QUIERES PONER A PRUEBA, YO RECOMENDARÍA HACERLO LO ANTES POSIBLE.

ENTONCES VE AHORA-- ESTA NOCHE.

¿QUIERES QUE LE AVISEMOS AL CLOWN?

NO.

TRATARE CON ÉL SI SE ENTERA.

MI PREOCUPACIÓN MÁS GRANDE ES QUE USTEDES VEAN CON SUS PROPIOS OJOS SI EL SR. DOWNING ES DIGNO DE NUESTRA ATENCIÓN, O SI ES SIMPLEMENTE OTRO EN LA LARGA LISTA DE "PEONES" INSERVIBLES.

Open Day

Open Day

DETECTIVE WILLIAMS, GRACIAS POR SU PACIENCIA.
Open Day

COMO USTED SABE, HEMOS ESTADO MONITOREANDO MUY DE CERCA EL ESTADO DE SU COMPAÑERO. AUNQUE EL TRAUMA INICIAL FUE DEBIDO A UNA OBSTRUCCIÓN AGUDA EN SU AORTA DORSAL, SU CUERPO NO PRESENTA LOS SÍNTOMAS DE UN PACIENTE CARDIACO
LO QUE SIGNIFICA QUE, ÉL NO ESTÁ MEJORANDO COMO HUBIÉRAMOS ESPERADO, PERO LAS BUENAS NOTICIAS SON-- QUE TAMPOCO ESTA EMPEORANDO, Y ESO, A PESAR DE TODO, ES UNA BUENA RAZÓN PARA MANTENERNOS OPTIMISTAS.
LOS ÚLTIMOS EXÁMENES QUE LE REALIZAMOS DESCARTARON MUCHAS DE NUESTRAS PREOCUPACIONES, PERO HUBO ALGUNAS LECTURAS IRREGULARES QUE REQUIEREN MÁS EXÁMENES.
Open Day

LO SIGUIENTE ES MANDAR LOS RESULTADOS A UN PAR DE ESPECIALISTAS PARA TENER OTRAS OPINIONES.

¿TENEMOS TIEMPO PARA ESO?

ASÍ LO CREO, ÉL SIGUE ESTABLE, ESTA ES NUESTRA MEJOR OPORTUNIDAD. NO PUEDO DECIRLE CUANTO TIEMPO SEGUIRÁ EN ESTA CONDICIÓN, DADO EL NÚMERO DE LECTURAS IRREGULARES QUE OBTUVIMOS.

ES COMO SI SU CUERPO ESTUVIERA NEGANDOSE A MEJORAR...

"...Y NO SABEMOS PORQUE ESTÁ SUCEDIENDO ESTO"

PERO COMO LE DIJE, LA MAYORÍA DE SUS ÓRGANOS PARECEN ESTAR BIEN PARA UN HOMBRE DE SU EDAD Y SU PESO. LO QUE COMPLICA LAS COSAS --COMO IMAGINARÁ-- ES LA POCA PREVENCIÓN DEL DETECTIVE BURKE CON LA COMIDA.

ESTAMOS TRATANDO DE DETERMINAR SI OTRAS ÁREAS FUERON PERJUDICADAS RESULTADO DEL ATAQUE CARDIACO O DE SU POCO SALUDABLE DIETA A TRAVÉS DE TODOS ESTOS AÑOS.

ÉL SIEMPRE FUE UN TESTARUDO CON ESE TEMA.

BUENO, LE VOY A ENCARGAR QUE LO OBLIGUE A CAMBIAR SUS MODOS ALIMENTICIOS. UNA VEZ QUE ESTE CURADO ODIARÍA VERLO VOLVER AQUÍ POR INGERIR DEMASIADA COMIDA CHATARRA

COMPREN-DIDO.

AHORA VAYA A CASA CON SU FAMILIA, LO LLAMARÉ EN CUANTO TENGAMOS NUEVAS NOTICIAS.

HOLA, KYLE-- NO TE DESPERTÉ, ¿VERDAD?

BIEN. YO...

¿QUÉ? ¡NO ME DIGAS! ¡PENSÉ QUE HABÍAS ROTO CON ELLA HACE UN PAR DE MESES!

SUENAS COMO UN SOLTERO NEURÓTICO Y DESPECHADO. PERO NO TE LLAMABA POR ESO.

¿RECUERDAS EL REPORTE QUE HICISTE EL AÑO PASADO SOBRE EL TIPO QUE QUÉ HACÍA PRUEBAS FORENSES?... NO, NO LA RUBIA ALTA... ¡POR DIOS! ¿NO LA VAS A DEJAR EN PAZ?-- NO, ESTOY HABLANDO DEL OTRO TIPO. EL QUE HACE DATACIÓN POR CARBONO EN SUS PRUEBAS.

¡CORRECTO!

¿SIGUES TENIENDO CONTACTO CON ÉL? ¿Y SABES CUÁL ES SU DIRECCIÓN WEB?

¿CREES QUE LO PUEDA ENCONTRAR? ¡GENIAL!

ES POR ESTE TIPO-- TU SABES, 'EL SANADOR'-- ÉL ME DIO ALGO Y ESTOY TRATANDO DE VER SI...

!!MARC!!

DAME UN SEGUNDO.

¡ESTOY AL TELÉFONO! ¡YA TERMINO Y VOY!

¡TE DIGO QUE VENGAS! ¡¡YA!!

UM, KILE...

TENGO QUE IRME, SUSAN DEBE ESTAR CON SU PERIODO O ALGO ASÍ.

NECESITO ESA INFORMACIÓN MAÑANA TEMPRANO, ¿OKAY?

GRACIAS.

MIRA, SUSAN, LO SIENTO, ESTABA...

¡ESO NO IMPORTA AHORA! ¿REVISATE TUS ÚLTIMOS MENSAJES DE TEXTO?

¿POR?

¡MIRA! ¿ÉL ES... DIGO. ¡DIOS MÍO!... ¿QUÉ MIERDA ES ESTO?

LIVE CNR

...ANTES DE QUE LOS POLICÍAS LLEGARAN ÉL ESCAPÓ A PIE. LAS AUTORIDADES ESTÁN TRATANDO DE LOCALIZARLE ...

...PERO COMO USTEDES PUEDEN VER EN ESTOS VIDEOS, EL MISTERIO DE JIM DOWNING SIGUE CRECIENDO.

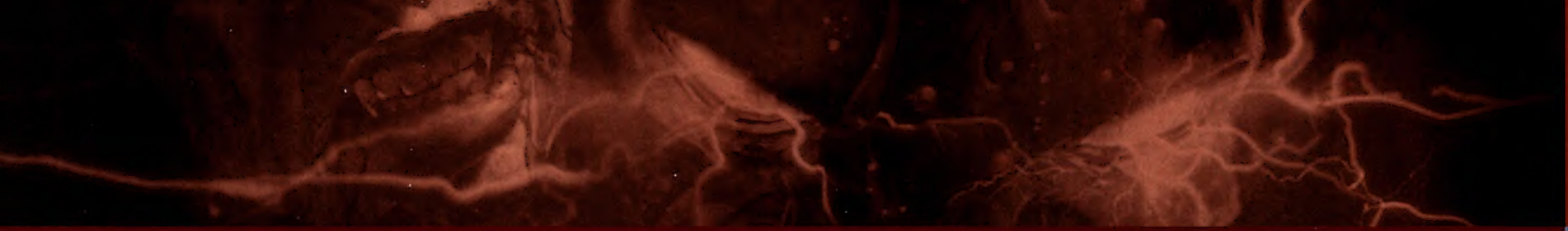
¡TODOS LOS TESTIGOS HAN CONFIRMADO LO PARECE SER UN ACTO DE IRREALIZABLE GRANDEZA! CONTINUAREMOS CON ESTA HISTORIA LUEGO DEL CORTE, CUANDO DISCUTIREMOS LOS DIFERENTES PUNTOS DE VISTA CON EXPERTOS TANTO EN MEDICINA COMO EN TEOLOGÍA.

SAVIOR?

¡ESTO...

...VA A SER DESCO-MUNAL!

CONTINUARA...



SPAWNING GROUND

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Hi everyone,

You just finished reading issue #204, and there are only two issues of our bi-weekly book left until we go back to our regular monthly schedule. Hopefully, we won't leave too much of a *Spawn* void in your life, since many of you have become accustomed to this pace. So, to reiterate, starting with issue #207, *Spawn* begins its monthly cycle once again.

While Todd is extremely devoted to his fans and to answering them in the letters page, I'm in the mood to switch things up a bit. Some time in the near future, I'd like to feature a Spawning Ground column devoted to our new artist, Szymon Kudranski. He'll join us to answer anything you throw his way, so start sending me your letters at letterspage@mcfarlane.com.

Similarly, I'd like to follow up Szymon's column with one featuring new Spawn writer, Will Carlton. Put your pen to the page, or fingers to the keys, and shoot over some questions for the new collaborators on our long-standing title.

Jen Cassidy

Managing Editor

Dear Todd,

I have been a huge fan of your work since I was about four years old and got my hands on a giant stack of *Spawn* comics that were being bundled and sold at my local bookstore. Ever since then I have been closely following and reading *Spawn*, and now *Haunt* as well, yet I've never bothered to write. However, yesterday was my 21st birthday and I decided after 17 years of dedicated following it was time.

First I want to say, thank you for finally making a concentrated effort to get the book back on track! Currently how many issues are completed? I'm just worried that after you finish this bi-weekly run you will be stuck with no more books and we will be right back in the same boat as we were before. I love your work, but we only got four issues last year. It's bad for fans and bad for business. When you see delays like that coming, why not just hire a team for one month to do a one shot? I think the most important key to keeping Spawn alive is to ensure he has market presence at all times.

Second, this new creative team is INCREDIBLE!!! Please don't kick these guys off anytime soon. I'm loving the art, and I like the return to the dialogue heavy style of the past. Reading issues 201 and 202 brought me back to how I felt reading some of my favorite issues from the previous 200 issues (I am big fan of issues 70 to 100, I loved Spawn as the boogey-man traveling from town to town). And I see that The Curse is returning in a few issues! He is my favorite *Spawn* villain of all time, hands down. Can we expect to see other classic *Spawn* baddies coming back?

Third, will we finally see your *Spawn* reboot on the screen anytime soon? I have been patiently waiting for so long. I would imagine *The Walking Dead*'s success on AMC has opened lots of doors lately, so keep plugging away in Hollywood. I would love to see our favorite demon spawn back on the big screen!! I remember getting my grandmother to take me to the original Spawn way back in 97, it was AWESOME.

And finally, just wanted to say, I love your work, and thank you for providing me with one of my most beloved characters and filling my life with hours of excitement and wonder for the past 17 years. I love reading *Spawn* and I am really digging *Haunt*. I feel like your books keep that childlike wonder and imagination alive in me, and for that.

I'm truly thankful.

Sorry about the length and much love and respect,

Michael H.

Birmingham, AL

Let me tackle some of these in order. I just recently got back from a comic retailer summit in Dallas. A couple of them mentioned what you said, which was, "Why would you go bi-weekly on a book if it's just going to put you back to a scheduling problem?" The response I'll give you is the same I gave them -- It won't be a problem.

In 2010, when I was slacking off, and we only put out four issues of *Spawn*, the new creative team was working feverishly on the book for almost a full year. By the time I finished issue 200, I had issues 201-208 finished artistically. It makes it very easy for us to now get those books out. So, in these next three months, with each issue you get, know that my creative team is finishing another issue each month. Even after we get through the bi-weeklies, I'll still be half a year ahead on the schedule.

To put this into context, the number of times I've had even one issue, let alone six issues, waiting for me in the can on the *Spawn* comic book is ZERO. I have NEVER, EVER had one book waiting for me.

The promise I gave the retailers at the summit, and the promise I'll give my fans, is there will be 15 issues of *Spawn* coming out in 2011. If you like this new team, which it sounds like you do, then get ready for it, cause there's going to be a lot of it.

As far as the new creative team, I couldn't agree with you more. The thing that's impressing me is how much better the team is getting, in terms of the way they're plotting, writing, and how the art's coming along. Along with some creative help from our new plotter, Jon Goff, the thing that's got me most riled up, is all the members of our team are insisting on staying on the title for 50 issues. They want to do a big bulk of stories so they just don't stay on the book for a year and disappear on us. The hardest thing with young creative people is to get them committed and enthused about doing a body of work, and all of my team is inclined to do so.

Lastly, with the Spawn movie, I just need to get the last couple of bi-weekly books out, and I'll have some free time to devote to finishing the screenplay. I have people waiting for it. We also have had some meetings on the animation, and a couple of TV projects. I'm re-doubling my efforts in Hollywood in 2011.

Hope this is a good year for you. We're looking for good things on our end, too.

-Todd

Todd,

You did it.

You made me excited to read the next issue of *Spawn* once again. I am 40 years old and have followed *Spawn* since the very beginning, waaayy back in May of '92. I never missed an issue and have collected every spin off. I also have never written to any title before, and I've been reading comics since I was 11 years old. And overall, I have remained religiously a die-hard *Spawn* fan. But I have to admit that the last 50 or so issues have not really kept my interest at the level that this book once did. I can't put my finger on any particular point as to why. I just know that the story didn't grab me like it once did -- Until I read issue 201.

First off, Szymon Kudranski is a fantastic artist. The realism in his artwork is mind blowing. I found myself just staring at every line and angle in awe. I don't know how long you plan on keeping him, but if he continues to deliver these kind of visuals, I hope it is as long or longer than Greg's run.

The story. Aww, the story. I have to say that when Endgame started, I wasn't pulled in. I was curious to see how it would play out, and what we would find out about Jim. But issue 200 left me disappointed. It reminded me of the feeling I had with issue 100 ... just so-so. It seemed rushed and that the art was the focal point in which you hoped would carry the issue through. Don't get me wrong, they were ... OK, but for a milestone issue, I was expecting more. More of a solid story that would define where the next few years would take us. Instead I felt it was a "hurry up and finish this arc because I have a great idea".

But issue 201 not only began to show us the new direction in which you plan on taking the book, but it was done in such a way that I felt as if I was watching a movie, and I wanted more. Kind of like when I first saw The Fellowship of the Ring. After two and a half hours I was screaming, "That's it?! I want more!!" And that's how I used to feel about *Spawn*.

So you did it. And I couldn't be happier. Don't fret, I have no plans of not buying this book. It has always been entertaining and I have always stood by your decisions and rode out the rough times. I'm just glad that the title that made me so excited for years has once again rekindled that spark and now will be the first book to read out of my stack each month (or every two weeks for a while).

Keep it up.

Chris L.

Dyer, Indiana

We're hoping that the bi-weekly pace will engage people into our new direction. One of the tough balancing acts is how much action you put into a comic, and how much dialogue you put in. I agree with you—as much as I like fights, villains, bad guys, and all those other sorts of things, they really limit the intellectual conversation you can have, and the amount of realism you can have amongst all the characters.

We'll find out whether the new direction we're going in, which is going to be super heavy in terms of character development, and probably with a little less mellow dramatic action, goes over well.

One of the things we were doing in 200, although it might not have been nearly as obvious, was setting the groundwork for Jim's mindset, through his conversations with Al in the darkness. Clown's last line in issue 200, which is, "It's time for us to go underground," basically means we're all going to have to start to look human. The return of Malebolgia, which you've seen a bit of in some of the issues post 200, will be a big piece of the story as we move forward.

Although there are times where the action stories seem a little simplistic, there are nuggets littered within it, that actually get us to the pieces that you'll have in your hands. I know we're getting a lot more realistic and sophisticated.

-Todd

Dear Spawn Team,

Hello, my name is Troy, and I feel I needed to write just to say how much I've been enjoying *Spawn* lately. First off, congratulations on hitting issue #200, and what an issue it was. It was great to have Todd back doing interiors on such a big milestone event, along with everyone else who participated on this issue. I loved all the different covers, as well as everyone else whose art made the inside of the issue, too. The story and the artwork was insane and I loved the fact the Freak turned out to be Malebolgia after all. I'm still a little confused how this came to be but I'm sure it will be explained eventually, which I'm excited about. I'm also starting to really like Jim as the new Spawn. I like the fact that there's so much mystery to him and it seems that's what is going to steer this book, so to speak, which means anything's possible and nothing is certain.

As for Violator, he's really been interesting over the last year or so and it's enjoyable to see him portrayed in a different light, as well. It was also good to see Al again and I have a feeling he's not completely done for after all. So thanks again for such a great issue and it's been such a pleasure collecting this title for so many years now.

As for the new creative team, I'm looking forward to seeing what they bring to the table. Issue number 201 and 202 were an enjoyable read, as well, and I feel the story and artwork is just going to get better as time goes on. I know Will Carlton is new to this gig, but I'm really excited to see what stories he has to tell. The vampire story arc I'm excited about especially is the one involving Bludd. The upcoming issue sound promising, too, and I especially can't wait for the issues involving The Curse and Tremor. It will be fun to see some older characters from the past thrown into the mix again.

As for the new artist, Szymon Kudranski, I have to say at first I wasn't too sure what to think but after seeing issue number 201 and 202, I'm convinced his artwork is amazing and it's going to fit this book rather nicely. I can't wait to see more. What an interesting style he brings to this book. Hopefully, he will be around for quite some time.

So with that said, thanks again for such an amazing comic book for all these years. I've been on board since the beginning and it's been quite a journey. I've really enjoyed all the stories over the years and I appreciate all the hard work you guys put into it, giving us fans the best product one could ask for. The future of *Spawn* never looked more interesting than now, and the fact that the book comes out bi-weekly for a while is a huge plus, as well. So thanks again and I can't wait to see what the future holds for *Spawn*. Here's to another hundred issues. You guys keep up the great and hard work and take care.

A few quick questions if you don't mind.

1. Will we be seeing Violator's henchman from issue number 192 again soon? I thought he seemed pretty interesting and it would be cool to find out more info on this character.

2. Speaking of characters, any chance can you guys do a story with either Urizen or the Heap again soon? It's been quite a long time since these guys have made an appearance in an issue, and I would like to see them again.

3. Last but not least, over the years, a lot of Image's co-founders among others have either drawn covers for *Spawn*and or interiors, and I've always wanted to see if you could get Dale Keown to finally do a *Spawn* cover. So how about it? Will you try to make it happen because I would love to see his artwork grace a cover of *Spawn*? Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

Troy K.

Like the previous letter authors, I'm happy to see you've made the transition to our new creative team readily. Here's what I've been saying out loud — At times you have to write/plot stories that are consistent with the look of your artist. If you have someone that's good at doing big dramatic scenes, you might be inclined to get into a lot of big physical confrontations.

Szymon doesn't fall into that category. What he does very well, is he does humans sitting around, talking, and evoking emotions and body language. You have to be able to get into internal conversations. In an odd way, it's almost like the difference between American movies and European movies. A lot of European movies are "talking head" movies, and they're really heavy on character dialogue and character movement; whereas, American movies focus on the action, if you will. I'm hoping that as people get older, they're looking for just a little bit more bite out of the apple.

We will be bringing back some of the older characters. It might not be in the same issues we solicited them for, but don't get discouraged because we have plans for all of them. We want to make sure we bring them back in the time in which they look and act new, and that we reinvigorate it, and it's not just something you've seen previously in that past 200 issues.

Lastly, I've always been a big fan of Dale Keown. Maybe I'll see if I can give him a call and get him to do a cover down the line.

-Todd

NEXT ISSUE

Jim Downing goes viral.

As footage of Jim's miraculous show of power spreads across the globe, he is confronted for the first time by a powerful trio of vampire warriors -- summoned by Bludd to test the limits of the new Hellspawn's powers, as well as his threshold for pain.

*Note: Cover subject to change